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12-20-2002

MWP Newsletter, 2002 (December 20)

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Recommended Citation

University of Mississippi. Department of English, "MWP Newsletter, 2002 (December 20)" (2002). *MWP News and Newsletters*. 54. https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mwp_news/54

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Welcome to the Mississippi Writers Page Newsletter for December 20-26, 2002

In this issue:

- This week in Mississippi Literary History
- Author events: readings, book signings, and appearances
- On the horizon: upcoming events to plan for

THIS WEEK in MISSISSIPPI LITERARY HISTORY

The following events all happened during this week in Mississippi history.

Year:

1879: Poet and fiction writer **Irwin Russell** died of exposure and pneunomia in New Orleans at the age of twenty-six. (Dec. 23)

1889: Novelist and memoirist Reuben G. Davis was born in Charleston, Mississippi. (Dec. 22)

1902: Agricultural writer and porcelain collector **George W. Ware** was born in Belen, Mississippi. (Dec. 22)

1912: Historian Woodrow Borah was born in Utica, Mississippi. (Dec. 22)

1915: Business professor Francis Barns May was born in Cascilla, Mississippi. (Dec. 24)

1917: Historian John D. Winters was born in McCool, Mississippi. (Dec. 23)

1934: Religion writer John A. Ishee was born in Laurel, Mississippi. (Dec. 22)

1938: Novelist and musician **Mack Allen Smith** was born in Carroll County, Mississippi. (Dec. 20)

1942: Newspaper columnist and storyteller **Robert Hitt Neill** was born in Leland, Mississippi. (Dec. 22)

1944: <u>Tennessee Williams</u>'s play *The Glass Menagerie* opened in Chicago, starring Laurette Taylor. It was greeted by rave reviews but sparse audiences attended. (Dec. 26)

1945: Fiction writer Judy Vernon was born in Belden, Mississippi. (Dec. 24)

1946: Singer/songwriter and prose writer <u>Jimmy Buffett</u> was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi. (Dec. 25)

1951: Civil rights leader Medgar Evers married Myrlie Beasley. (Dec. 24)

1951: Philosopher and literary critic **Paisley Livingston** was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi. (Dec. 25)

1953: <u>William Faulkner</u> met Jean Stein while in Europe working on *Land of the Pharaohs* for Howard Hawks. (Dec. 24)

1959: The film *Suddenly, Last Summer*, based on the play by <u>Tennessee Williams</u>, opened. (Dec. 22)

1968: Poet Sterling Plumpp married Falvia Delgrazia Jackson. (Dec. 21)

1975: Memoirist <u>Murry C. Falkner</u> died in Mobile, Alabama. He was later buried in Oxford, Mississippi. (Dec. 24)

1977: Novelist and playwright Louise Blackwell died. (Dec. 25)

1996: The movie *Ghosts of Mississippi* opened in the United States, based on the real-life murder conviction in 1994 of white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith for the killing of civil rights leader <u>Medgar Evers</u> more than three decades earlier. (Dec. 20)

2001: Storyteller <u>Jimmy Faulkner</u>, nephew of <u>William</u> and son of <u>John</u>, died in a hospital in Tupelo, Mississippi, at the age of 78. (Dec. 24)

AUTHOR EVENTS: Book Signings, Readings, and Appearances

Jan. 9: Square Books, Oxford, Mississippi

Acclaimed novelist and short story writer Bobbie Ann Mason will read from her new biography of Elvis Presley. For more information, visit the Square Books web site, <u>www.squarebooks.com</u>.

Jan. 16: Bondurant Auditorium, University of Mississippi campus, Oxford, Mississippi, 7 p.m.

Tom Chandler, poet laureate of Rhode Island and author of *Wingbones* and *Sad Jazz*, reads from his poetry. Sponsored by the John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writers Series and the English Department. For more information, contact the department at (662) 915-7439, or online at www.olemiss.edu/depts/english.

Feb. 6: Bondurant Auditorium, University of Mississippi campus, Oxford, Mississippi, 7 p.m.

U.S. Poet Laureate (2001-2002) Billy Collins reads from his poetry and offers commentary on his work and other matters. Sponsored by the John and Renee <u>Grisham</u> Visiting Writers Series and the English Department. For more information, contact the department at (662) 915-7439, or online at <u>www.olemiss.edu/depts/english</u>.

Feb. 17: Old Chemistry Auditorium, University of Mississippi campus, Oxford, Mississippi, 7 p.m.

<u>Clifton L. Taulbert</u>, author of the acclaimed classic *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, will speak. This event is in conjunction with *Open Doors*, the University of Mississippi's yearlong observance of the 40th anniversary of the integration of higher education. Sponsored by the John and Renee <u>Grisham</u> Visiting Writers Series and the English Department. For more information, contact the department at (662) 915-7439, or online at <u>www.olemiss.edu/depts/english</u>.

If you know of upcoming literary events by or about Mississippi writers, please let us know by

writing us at <u>mwp@olemiss.edu.</u>

ON THE HORIZON

The following events are planned for the coming weeks and months. You may wish to begin planning now to attend or participate.

March 25, 2003

Poetry Reading by Andrew Hudgins, Bondurant Hall Auditorium, The University of Mississippi campus, in Oxford.

March 26-30, 2003

Seventeenth Annual <u>Tennessee Williams</u>/New Orleans Literary Festival, New Orleans, Louisiana. For information, visit their web site at <u>www.tennesseewilliams.net</u>.

April 10-13, 2003

Oxford Conference for the Book, Oxford, Mississippi.

July 20-25, 2003

30th Annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi

If you know of additional news items for this newsletter or if you have suggestions, please write us at <u>mwp@olemiss.edu</u>.

For more information about events in the Oxford and University of Mississippi community, see the Ole Miss Community Calendar: www.olemiss.edu/calendar/

Last Revised on . Send comments to <u>mwp@olemiss.edu</u>.

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